(b) if so, what action has been taken or proposed to be taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that during inspection of some banks maintaining non-convertible rupee accounts, it came to right that in some cases, funds received from bilateral group of countries in non-convertible rupees were converted to NRE account and for part of such funds immunities were claimed and given under the Foreign Exchange (Immunity) Scheme, 1991. The banks which had allowed these trasactions have been advised to: (i) cancel the immunity certificates issued against funds received in non-convertible rupees; and (ii) to investigate the matter and fix responsibility on the officials concerned. RBI have also advised other banks and authorised dealers to investigate such transactions to ensure that no irregularities have taken place.

Increase in cases of gold smuggling

880. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that instances of gold smuggling are increasing; and

(b) if so, what is the number of gold smuggling cases apprehended, worth of gold seized, number of cases in which prosecution has been launched/settled/ pending and number of cases in which fine was imposed or sentence awarded during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) Available reports and the seizures made indicate that gold continues to be sensitive to smuggling into the country. However, since smuggling is a clandestine activity, it is not possible to say whether the instances of gold smuggling are increasing. The quantity and value of gold seized during the last two years are given below:—

(Metric Tonnes)
(Rs. in Crores)

Year	Value of gold seized	Quantity of gold
1990 . . .	192·96	5.72
1991 . . .	187·00	4·93

The number of persons who have been prosecuted/convicted/acquitted undtr the provisions of the Customs. Act. 1962 during the last two years and the number of prosecutions pending at the end of 1991 are given below. However, figures in respect of gold cases alone are not maintained separately.

Year	No. of persons prosecuted	No. of persons convicted	No. of persons acquitted	No. of prosecutions pending
1990 . . .	2268	555	141	—
1991* . . .	1640	585	146	6237

*Figures are provisionals.